Hon. Ann A. Scott Timmer, Chair Attorney Regulation Advisory Committee 1501 W. Washington St. Phoenix, AZ 85007 In the Matter of: PETITION R-20-0020 TO AMEND RULES 34 THROUGH 37, RULES

OF THE SUPREME COURT OF

ARIZONA

IN THE SUPREME COURT STATE OF ARIZONA

Supreme Court No. R-20-0020

Comment of Attorney Regulation
Advisory Committee

The Arizona Supreme Court's Attorney Regulation Advisory Committee ("ARC") supports the petition to amend Rules 34 through 37 of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Arizona, with two members (Judge Lawrence Winthrop and Attorney Member Scott Rhodes) opposing proposed Rule 34(m).

In all but one instance, ARC unanimously supports the proposed changes to Rules 34 through 37. The proposed amendments are appropriate refinements of the rules governing admission to the practice of law in Arizona and ARC recommends the Supreme Court approve them. As to proposed Rule 34(m), a majority of ARC supports the proposed amendment to allow the Committee on Character and Fitness to decline to allow the withdrawal or deferral of an application for admission once

an applicant has submitted an associated Character and Fitness Application. In the rare instance where an applicant has been deceitful in his or her application, the Committee should have the authority to make a decision on the application based on the submitted information rather than allowing the applicant to unilaterally withdraw his or her application and reapply with a new application at a later date. Rule 34(l) allows an applicant to abandon an application before it is considered complete by the Committee.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this ____ day of March, 2020.

Hon. Ann A. Scott Timmer, Chair Attorney Regulation Advisory Committee